

Africa

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AMERICA'S OLDEST SENATOR was scheduled to leave this week on a six week, 12,000 mile inspection tour of Africa. He is Theodore Francis Green, Democrat from Rhode Island and oldest man ever to serve in the Senate. Senator Green is making the trip for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, traveling as a one-man subcommittee on U.S. Technical Assistance (Point Four). Senator Green said he is concerned with Africa's growing importance in world affairs and wants to make an on-the-spot evaluation of American aid policies and administration. On October 2 at Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo, Senator Green will celebrate his 89th birthday.

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UNITED NATIONS FIGHT FORESEEN AS FRANCE MOVES TO INCORPORATE TOGOLAND



A BRITISH woman registration official puts voters rolls on public display prior to the May plebiscite in British Togoland as a UN observer looks on. UN supervision will be missing when French Togoland votes--UN Photo.

portion and France is charged with control of the east--a strip of land about 75 miles wide and 375 miles long, with a population of some 1,000,000, almost entirely African.

France is now in the process of giving her section of Togoland a "self-government" statute, providing for a local Premier and a Cabinet responsible to a local assembly. Many vital powers are reserved to French administration, but the statute is nevertheless revolutionary in the French colonial system.

Following up the self-government statute, France will hold a plebiscite in October so Togoland can vote on whether to continue the trusteeship or become linked formally with the French Union. They will not have an opportunity to vote on independence.

Against these moves, African nationalist leaders in French Togoland are leveling some serious charges. They assert that 1) the plebiscite is being held too soon

Reports from Africa indicate France is making a radical departure from her traditional colonial policies this month in a bid to maintain control over eastern Togoland on the coast of West Africa.

France's present maneuvering is expected to have important repercussions throughout her colonial possessions in Africa and is very likely to stir up a major fight on the floor of the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled to reconvene in November.

Togoland is a former German colony, split up among Britain and France after World War I and now administered as a United Nations trusteeship. Britain is the administering power in the smaller western

for the United Nations to send any effective observers, 2) registration officials are loading the rolls in favor of the French, 3) police are harassing opposition meetings. In short, it is charged, France is moving post-haste to incorporate Togoland and confront the United Nations with an accomplished fact.

(Actually, the UN General Assembly recessed in January, and the plebiscite was not announced by France until July 31. The plebiscite will be held in October, one month before the General Assembly reconvenes. However, the UN Trusteeship Council, which may have authority to send observer teams, was in session when the plebiscite was announced, received a French request for teams to observe the balloting only, debated the request for ten days, finally turned it down by virtue of a 7-7 deadlock. One reason: the seven countries on the Trusteeship Council who do not have dependencies of their own objected to a plebiscite which would not list independence as one of the choices. This will probably be one of the focal points in the anticipated General Assembly fight. France cannot legally incorporate Togoland without United Nations approval.)

In the present situation, Togoland assumes an importance out of proportion to its size, for were France to relinquish it, the impact would be felt in the Ivory Coast and other parts of French Africa. On the other hand, liberal concessions France makes in order to keep Togoland probably will also spur demands in her other territories. Apparently France has chosen on the side of concessions. Up to now French colonies have had to be satisfied with sending a few representatives to Paris, while local administration remained in the hands of the French. First indication of a change in this pattern was a radical reform, in June, of France's loi cadre, or charter law for colonial government, in which some powers of decision-making were authorized for assemblies within the various territories.

France's problems have been compounded by a plebiscite May 9 in the British sector of Togoland (supervised by the UN from start to finish), on which occasion voters chose unification with the Gold Coast rather than continuance of the trusteeship.



This disrupted chances for eventual unification of the two Togolands as an independent state, gave impetus to pro-Gold Coast pressures among fellow tribesmen in the French sector. Togoland is right next door to the prosperous, self-governing Gold Coast, and with Britain expected to grant full independence to the Gold Coast in a matter of months, anti-French agitation in Togoland is becoming more vociferous.

What is the attitude of the French Togolese? Christian Science Monitor correspondent Egon Kaskeline wrote in June: "The French administration has become increasingly unpopular with the inhabitants of the trust territory." Other experienced observers express a different view, feel that, without independence as an alternative, pro-French sentiment in Togoland is still unquestionably predominant. This is said to be the reason why France could afford to adopt universal suffrage in the trust territory, why opposition leaders have boycotted past elections, why France is sure to win the October plebiscite and thus present the UN with the fait accompli which is expected to create such a storm in the General Assembly.

* * * * *

DR. IBRAHIM ANIS, first Ambassador to the United States from the newly independent Sudan, presented his credentials to President Eisenhower last week. Dr. Anis, former head of the Sudanese medical service, arrived in the United States two weeks ago in company with Mohammed Ahmed, his First Secretary, and Yacoub Osman, who will be permanent delegate to the United Nations upon the Sudan's anticipated admission to that body during the next session of the General Assembly.

SIR ANDREW COHEN IS COMING TO AMERICA--Britain's most talked about colonial official will come to the United States in mid-1957 as permanent British representative to the United Nations Trusteeship Council. He is Sir Andrew Benjamin Cohen, brusque, brilliant Governor of Uganda, Britain's turbulent protectorate in the heart of Africa.

At 47, Cohen can probably claim a greater share of the credit for Britain's radically revised and enlightened Africa policy than any other single man. Before coming to Uganda in 1952, he served in London as Under Secretary of State for Africa, was considered the architect of planned withdrawal from the Gold Coast. In Uganda, he weathered the complex "Kabaka Crisis," was responsible for the temporary banishment of the Kabaka (traditional African ruler) from the country--an event comparable to the Makarios exile on Cyprus.

Cohen's term expires in January and he will be replaced by Sir Frederick Crawford, Deputy Governor of Kenya. Friends and enemies alike marvel at Cohen's legendary nervousness, social indifference, burning idealism, brilliance and good sense, and it seems certain that his presence will make a lively contribution to the trusteeship debates in New York.



GOVERNOR COHEN IN UGANDA--Uganda Information Department photo shows the Governor on safari in Ankole province. In background are African long-horned Ankole cattle.

• **GOVERNMENT ACCUSED IN GOLD COAST INQUIRY:** In a report issued last week, a Gold Coast commission investigating the quasi-official Cocoa Purchasing Company said it was convinced that bribery, corruption and extortion existed among some of the company's officials and accused the Government of condoning some of the irregularities. The investigating group was appointed by Primer Minister Kwame Nkrumah and was headed by a Nigerian.

• **NIGERIAN BANKING INVESTIGATION GETS UNDER WAY--** Crowds in Lagos cheered Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Premier of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, last week as he arrived for the opening round in the investigation of his banking activities. A special British Commission is looking into charges that Dr. Azikiwe made improper transfer of \$5,600,000 in government funds from the Bank of British West Africa to the African Continental Bank of which "Dr. Zik" is permanent director.

The investigation is causing a sensation in Nigeria, but is not expected to damage seriously the position of Dr. Azikiwe. Britain is said to regard his leadership as indispensable in the present development of Nigeria, and Africans in the Eastern Region are expected to remain loyal to the Premier no matter what the commission says.

The investigation stems from charges by E. O. Eyo, a disaffected former lieutenant of Dr. Azikiwe, that the Premier used the funds for his own business ventures. Dr. Azikiwe's supporters claim the transfer was for the good of the region, contend it was almost impossible for an African businessman to get a loan from the British bank. A further note of discord has been injected by one of Dr. Azikiwe's political opponents, Western Region Premier Obafemi Awolowo. Miffed by the delay the inquiry is causing in a scheduled London conference to discuss Nigeria's constitutional development, Chief Awolowo has accused Dr. Azikiwe of "rascality" and is charging him with impeding Nigeria's progress toward self-government.

• **SOUTH AFRICA: "DISRUPTED LIVES, HUMAN SUFFERING"--** More than 100,000 Africans, Indians and persons of mixed color are being forced out of their homes in Johannesburg (population 1,000,000, including 546,000 Africans) in the latest application of South Africa's 1950 Group Areas Act. Non-whites in eight areas of the city have been given one to two years to move to new communities selected for them arbitrarily. Sixty thousand Africans are being moved to new townships on remote meadowlands, and the undeveloped township of Lenasia 20 miles outside of the city is being set aside to accommodate 22,000 Indians who will be displaced. They must sell property valued at \$3,750,000, in many cases lose their livelihoods.

Commenting on this most recent application of the Nationalist Party's "Apartheid" program, a parliamentary opposition member called it "absurd" to suggest that "Indian traders will be able to survive by taking in each other's washing at Lenasia." Said the Johannesburg Star: "The Government's decree will touch off a vast migration of people and an incalculable train of disrupted lives and human suffering. Even in the name of white civilization, we can see nothing to extenuate this act of mass callousness." The New York Times called it "South African Madness," and the Washington Post spoke of the "inevitable blood bath" which Apartheid must bring.

• **JOHN B. GEORGE**, Executive Director of the Institute of African-American Relations, returned from Africa last week after a three-month tour. He discussed Institute plans with officials throughout East, West and Central Africa.

• **AFRICAN SPECIALIST** Edwin S. Munger will interview Gold Coast King Boa Amponsem III, currently visiting America, over NBC Radio's "Monitor" at 11:35 a.m. Sunday (Daylight Saving Time) on the University of Chicago program, "New World".

• **THE WASHINGTON, D.C. zoo** received a 1000-pound hippo from Africa last week, went political, named him Joe Smith.

recent publications

ONE OF THE BEST handbooks on today's Africa came off the presses of the Government Printing Office last month in the form of a Report of the Special Study Mission to Africa, South and East of the Sahara. Compiled by Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton's one-man Subcommittee on the Near East and Africa for the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations, the stimulating 151 page easy-to-read report should provide valuable background material for those determining United States policy toward Africa. Limited quantities of the report are available from the office of Representative Bolton, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Drum: A Venture Into the New Africa, Anthony Sampson, Oxford educated editor of Johannesburg's exciting Pan-African tabloid, Drum, tells the story of creating a newspaper expressly for Africans. (Collins, England)

Southern Africa: Today and Yesterday, A. W. Wells has revised and expanded "South Africa: A Planned Tour." (Dutton, 500 pp., \$7.50)

Azalai, John Skolle narrates the adventures of a German-born American painter and schoolteacher in his own story--a tale of a visit to the mid-Sahara in 1952 and a journey with Arab camel men through the heartland of the French Sudan to Timbuctoo in 1954. (Harper, 272 pp., \$4.)

African Hayride, Margaret G. Ryan, New York debutante, recently took leave of her home on the Italian Riviera to "go looping round Africa" in a foreign sports car. The result: gay and entertaining memoirs. (Rand McNally, 255 pp., \$3.50.)

• SOME 3,000 Americans visited East Africa in 1955 according to the annual report of the East Africa Tourist Travel Association, 295 Madison Avenue, New York. Transportation company officials anticipate increased traffic to all parts of Africa after Oct. 1 when all regularly scheduled airlines begin offering 15-day holiday excursion trips the year round. Present off season-on season air rates will be eliminated Nov. 1. A New York-Capetown run completed in 17 days will cost \$1128.80, an 8% reduction over the present tourist rate (\$1225.80) and 33% less than the present first class rate (\$1693.80). First class trans-Atlantic fares will be reduced approximately 10% on Oct. 1, but authorities anticipate a rise of 5% on tourist and 10% on first class fares from points in Europe to Africa.

• TWO ENTICING 47-day luxury tours of Africa will leave New York Jan. 12 and Feb. 2, 1957 under the auspices of the British Overseas Airways Corp. All inclusive cost of touring from Capetown to the Equator is \$3,385. Space is available from the Bankers and Merchants Travel Service, 511 Fifth Avenue, New York, or BOAC offices in New York and Washington.

business notes

• FIRST PROMISING discovery of oil in Nigeria has been announced by the Shell-British Petroleum Company. The find was made near the coast in Nigeria's Eastern Region. "Appraisal" wells will be sunk to determine whether exploitation would be profitable.

• LIBERIA has changed its import duties on a large number of items, some being raised, others lowered and some abolished entirely. In general, the changes have been devised to protect local industries, and to eliminate duties on items which are imported to help the country's economic development, such as machine tools.

• FREIGHT RATES from U.S. Atlantic ports to South and East Africa are scheduled to go up moderately after October 1.

• AMERICAN FARMERS should find good news in reports from British East Africa of bumper crops of pyrethrum, the valuable insecticide. Pyrethrum comes from a species of chrysanthemum, is useful because it does not cause illness in humans. In 1955 the United States imported 7.6 million pounds of pyrethrum flowers and extract. Approximately 40 per cent came from British East Africa.

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